4.20 Disturbing Area Stabilization (With Temporary Seeding)

Ds2

Definition

Establishing temporary vegetative cover with fast-growing seedlings on disturbed or denuded areas.

Purpose

Temporary seeding is used for the following:

- to reduce erosion, sediment, and runoff damages to downstream resources,
- to improve wildlife habitat,
- to improve aesthetics,
- to improve safety and public road rights-of-way, and
- to improve tillage and add organic matter for permanent plantings.

Conditions

This practice is applicable on areas subject to erosion for up to 12 months or until establishment of finished grade or permanent vegetative cover. Temporary vegetative measures should be coordinated with permanent measures to assure economical and effective stabilization.

Specifications

Prior to seeding, install necessary erosion control practices such as dikes, waterways, and basins.

Seedbed Preparation

To control erosion on bare soil surfaces, plants must be able to germinate and grow. Seedbed preparation is essential.

Liming

Where soils are known to be highly acidic (pH 5.5 and lower), lime should be applied at the rate of 2 tons of pulverized agricultural limestone per acre.

Fertilizer

Fertilizer shall be applied as 450 lbs./acre of 10-20-20 (10 lbs./1,000 square feet) or equivalent. Lime and fertilizer shall be incorporated into the top 2 to 4 inches of the soil.

Surface Roughening

If the area has been recently loosened or disturbed, no further roughening is required.

When the area is compacted, crusted, or hardened, the soil surface shall be loosened by discing, raking, harrowing, or other acceptable means. See surface roughening.

Tracking

Tracking with bulldozer cleats is most effective on sandy soils. This practice often causes undue compaction of the soil surface, especially in clayey soils, and does not aid plant growth as effectively as other methods of surface roughening.

Seeding

Seed shall be evenly applied with a cyclone seeder, drill, cultipacker seeder, or hydroseeder. Small grains shall be planted no more than 1 inch deep. Grasses and legumes shall be planted no more than ¼ inch deep. See Table 4.21.1 for seed recommendations.

Mulching

1. Seeding operations made in fall for winter cover shall be mulched.

2. At other times of the year, seeding on slopes in excess of 4:1, or on adverse soil conditions, or during excessively hot or dry weather, shall be mulched.

3. Seeding operations made during optimum spring and summer seeding dates, with favorable soil and site conditions, will not require mulch.

Reseeding

Areas that fail to establish vegetative cover adequate to prevent rill erosion will be re-seeded as soon as identified.

TABLE 4.21.1

Seeding Mixtures, Rates and Dates

Site Conditions		Seeding Mixtures	Rates: Per Acre	Rates: Per 1,000 ft²	Dates: 3/15 to 5/1	Dates: 5/1 to 8/15	Dates: 8/15 to 10/1
High Maintenance Lawns	1.	Kentucky bluegrass—a blend of 4 or more varieties ..... 100% (No variety shall be more than 30% of total mixture.) Note: Up to 50% of the mixture may be red Fescue, where lawns are shaded	140 lbs	3 lbs	X	No	X
	2.	Tall Fescue .....80% Kentucky Bluegrass (Kenblue or So. Dakota Cert.) .....10% NOTE: May also be used on low maintenance lawns	200 lbs	6 lbs	X	No	X
Low Maintenance General Use	3.	Tall Fescue .....50% Ladino clover .....10% Red clover .....10% Korean lespedeza .....15% Annual ryegrass 15%	80 lbs	2 lbs	X	(a,b) X	X
	4.	Tall Fescue .....50% Sericea lespedeza.....30% Annual ryegrass .....15% Redtop 5%	70 lbs	1½ lbs	X	(a)X	X
Slopes	5.	Crown vetch .....50% Perennial ryegrass .....40% Redtop 10%	40 lbs	1 lbs	X	No	X
	6.	Flat pea.....50% Tall Fescue 50%	80 lbs	2 lbs	X	No	X
Droughty Areas	7.	Tall Fescue .....65% Reed canarygrass.....20% Annual ryegrass 15%	80 lbs	2 lbs	X	No	X
		Tall Fescue .....60% Sericea lespedeza.....30% Redtop 10%	70 lbs	1½ lbs	X	(a)X	X

a. After May 15, use 10 lbs /A German millet or 2 lbs /A weeping lovegrass in place of annual ryegrass or Redtop.
b. After May 15. Omit Korean lespedeza and increase red clover to 20% of mixture.